

**WATCHUNG RECREATION**  
**COORDINATOR'S REPORT**  
**JUNE 4, 2014**

1. The May 12<sup>th</sup> Yankee trip sales were not as successful as the August 31, 2013 trip when we were able to sell all tickets. The total sales for the May 12<sup>th</sup> trip was 19 out of 50 available tickets. The tickets were offered to surrounding towns and schools. The consensus in the office was that it was a Monday night and most people had to work the next day. Bill Jacques was able to sell the remaining tickets as a group for a total of \$440.00 making the total cost to the Borough \$1560.46 for the ticket purchase and bus transport.
2. The Community Picnic event went smoothly. Attached is a list of all the donations from local businesses and organizations for the event. The total cost for the vendors, food and supplies to run the event came to \$5860.40. The face painter was not able to attend at the last minute which would have been a nice touch to the event. The amount of monetary donations came to \$3025.00 making the total cost of the event to the Borough \$2910.40, less than prior years. The cost of our 2012 picnic after donations was \$3660.35. The cost of the 2013 event after donations came to \$3923.22. I was encouraged by the involvement of volunteers and business donations this year and I believe with the resident turnout we had, the same businesses and organizations would want to be involved again next year. Thank you letters were sent out for all the donations and volunteers. Two suggestions were made for future events one that we should ask the county for larger recycling buckets to use with small openings for bottles and cans. Also suggested was to serve small soda cans and water bottles to save on waste. I will use these suggestions for our Harvest Festival.
3. The fishing derby is scheduled for Saturday, September 20<sup>th</sup>. I will send out a save the date to the schools, send it out through resident e-mail and notify the Mayor, Council, Police, Rescue Squad and Fire department as well as the papers. Warren Blue Ridge Sportsmen offered to help out at the event. They offered to help bait hooks, bring loner rods and give out reusable shopping bags as well as make Zeppoles to give out at the event. This group helps out in Warren Township for their fishing derby event which was held this year on May 17<sup>th</sup> this year and why they were not able to attend our Community Picnic which was on the same day. Their donation of \$100.00 to our Community Picnic went to the cotton candy machine and the fishing rods and reels were well received by the children as a giveaway at our event. The Borough's assistant engineer Arlene McCoy informed me that a donation of fish is likely for Watchung Lake by June 15<sup>th</sup> this year. She stated that the N.J. Division of Fish and Wildlife contacted the Borough about the dam repair project at Lake Surprise in the Watchung Reservation. They are looking for a suitable location to relocate the salvaged fish from the lake of largemouth bass. Their recent survey indicated that our lakes had a very low count of young-of-the year Bass resulting in a very unbalanced fishery and therefore are considering our lakes for the relocation of the salvaged fish from Lake Surprise. A. McCoy also stated that there are two other recommended lakes for the fish relocation and that a decision had not yet been made. This donation could benefit our fishing derby and the costs as well as help with the amount and size of fish that is in the lake during that time.

4. The progress of the playground equipment replacement and area drainage are underway. We have two price quotes for the equipment at this time and I am expecting another quote from a non-state contracted company to use as a comparison. I will be contacting two more state contracted companies so that we have more options as each company sells a different product. Tom Herits, the Borough's engineer, suggested taking out the existing wood fiber from the area, filling that area with drainage pipes and drainage stone to ground level of the park area, installing a 6' x 12" composite border around the perimeter of the playground area and replacing the existing fiber, topping it off with fresh fiber to save on the replacement costs. The Public Works manager Bob Burns mentioned that they could remove the existing playground equipment and fiber putting aside the fiber to replace it later. The Borough would have to contract the stone and drainage which would be put in place after the equipment was installed. Once the equipment, drainage pipes and stone is in place Public works could put in the composite border, replace the existing fiber and add more fiber to conform to the recommended depth of fiber according to height / fall ratio (12 ft. fall zone requires a 12 ft. depth of fiber an 8 ft. fall zone requires an 8 ft. depth of fiber). The depth of fiber will then depend on the height of the tallest piece of newly installed equipment. Another more costly but permanent solution would be to add macadam to the surface of the drainage stone and add a rubber surface to the macadam which there are several options to choose from such as a pour surface or pieced matting. B. Burns is in the process of getting an estimate for the macadam and he will provide me with a copy of the estimate for our records when it is complete.
5. Jeff Isaacs was contacted by the Boy Scout Council last week about details of his Eagle Scout project. They wanted more information on the process of putting together the three tennis court benches that was part of his project. After opening one of the bench boxes in the shed no directions were found and so Jeff will try to get the information online so that they can be turned into the council as requested. Jeff is hoping to get an approval from the council in the near future.